

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

In order to achieve the abovementioned object, the printing apparatus of the invention comprises an printer body having a setting surface on which a printing surface of a printing medium is horizontally set, a carriage beam that is attached to the printer body and extends in the direction along the setting surface, and a carriage provided so as to be movable in the beam lengthwise direction with respect to the carriage beam, and is equipped with an ink head which is mounted on the carriage and has a nozzle for discharging ink, wherein the carriage is provided with a carriage supporting means for supporting the carriage on the carriage beam in a manner enabling the carriage to move up and down, an ink receiving part for receiving ink discharged from the ink head, and a receiving part supporting means for supporting the ink receiving part in a manner enabling it to move to reciprocate between an ink receiving position part below the ink head and a withdrawn position separated from the ink head while maintaining the horizontal posture. Thereby, with the simple structure in which the carriage is raised and lowered, flushing can be carried out as appropriate even during printing processing by advancing or retreating the ink receiving part.

**Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Furthermore, in the printing apparatus of the present invention, the receiving part supporting means is provided with a holder to which the ink receiving part is attached, a receiving part moving motor, and a link mechanism which links the drive shaft of the receiving part moving motor and the holder and moves the holder according to the rotational driving of the receiving part moving motor so that the ink receiving part moves between the ink receiving position and the withdrawn position while maintaining the horizontal posture.